☎ NOTE: RCPC has a new phone number. Call 510/644-4228 with questions and comments on community issues. ☎

THE Rockridge News

www.rockridge.org

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Sponsored by The Rockridge Community Planning Council • 5245 College Ave. PMB 311 • Oakland, CA 94618 • 644-4228

A New Beginning for the Claremont Avenue Safeway Site

by Dan Ferdelman, RCPC Vice Chair

It's been nearly 20 years since the Safeway supermarket at 5354 Claremont Avenue closed its doors and left neighbors looking for another place to buy groceries. Since then, the public has rarely seen the inside of the old store. Passers-by may have wondered what was going on inside and why property in such a busy area was left seemingly undeveloped.

That is all about to change. The building is being renovated to hold medical offices, and the parking lot may soon be full of neighbors coming and going in pursuit of good health.

Many residents of Rockridge and the Oakland Hills remember the site as a "One Stop Center" for people seeking help from various public agencies as they worked to put their homes and their lives back together after the devastating 1991 firestorm. Others may recall when it served as a distribution center for Girl Scout cookies.



Former Safeway, emergency center, and Children's Hospital storage facility will soon be home to medical offices.
PHOTO: JACKIE TASCH

However, Children's Hospital has been the official tenant, using the building for storage and occasionally

▸ SAFEWAY SITE, PAGE 10

Tour Open Studios 2003

▸ The Rockridge Muse, page 9



Duck, Duck, Goose — Marsha Vaughn

agenda: RCPC General Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.

Rockridge Branch Library
Community Room
5366 College Avenue at Manila

■ **The Good Old Days in Oakland**

Author Bill Caldwell tells us about his interesting new book of photos comparing neighborhoods, landmarks, and organizations of old and present-day Oakland—from the gates of Rockridge to the harbor to the Oakland High basketball team. ▸ May Meeting, page 3.

Community Policing, Neighborhood Crime Are Focus of May NCPC Meeting

by Mark Spellman, Chair

If you are troubled by neighborhood crime and other nuisances—or you're ready to be part of the solution—you'll want to attend the Greater Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council's Town Hall meeting May 27 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Rockridge Library.

Community policing is already a growing movement in Rockridge, with police and residents collaborating to make neighborhoods safer and better places to live. Lt. Lawrence Green of the Oakland Police Department will lead a Town Hall discussion of how community policing works and how it can create sustainable solutions to neighborhood crime.

The Town Hall meeting will also hear reports from NCPC committees formed to deal with common problems.

■ **Crime and Nuisance Problem-Solving Committee:** Examines emerging and chronic criminal and nuisance activity in residential neighborhoods. Together with participants from the affected areas, the Greater Rockridge NCPC helps develop strategic plans to resolve problems.

■ **Blight and Abatement Committee:** Seeks to curb graffiti in Rockridge neighborhoods and remove blight as quickly as possible after resident reports.

■ **Community Outreach Committee:** Disseminates crime prevention information to the greater Rockridge community, in an expansion of the Neighborhood Watch Network.

Elections to the board of the Greater Rockridge NCPC will also be held at the meeting. Anyone who lives in the 12Y and 13X communities can step forward as a candidate.

If you were at the last Town Hall, you know that some last-minute guest speakers from city agencies (City Council or Traffic and Engineering) are likely to participate in the active and interesting question and answer session.

Please join us.



Around the Neighborhood

by Jacqueline Tasch, Editor, **The Rockridge News**

Wavy Gravy's "Reverse Pot-Holes"

Almost a year ago, about the time I was deciding whether to move to Rockridge, I was tooling along a side street east of College Avenue when I ran afoul of a speed bump. I could say I was distracted by the architecture or the landscaping, but in fact, I was trying to go around the block and back to College and the block turned out to be longer and more irregularly shaped than I expected. I wasn't speeding, but I was making time.

Except for the jostling I took, I thought no harm was done. After a lovely dinner at a friend's house, I headed home to San Francisco. Just as I made the last merge on the pretzel-like freeways approaching the Bay Bridge, my car began to make a dreadful noise. I was quite sure the entire transmission, along with whatever else lurks under a car, was now being dragged along the pavement, ready at any moment to break off and leave me stopped dead in the middle of speeding traffic. Alone in the dark without a cellphone.

At the toll booth, I asked the collector if he would take a look, but he insisted that it was "just noise" and passed me through. It wasn't just noise, but the car and I did get home in one piece each. The damage cost a bit more than $500.

This incident did not augur well for my long-term relationship with speed bumps, but it didn't dissuade me from moving to Rockridge. As I settled in on this side of the Bay, I realized a relationship with speed bumps was inevitable. I can stand in my front yard and hit two speed bumps with a baseball—and I throw underhand. To get almost anywhere by car, I cross a half dozen or more. I also came to appreciate the rationale for speed bumps: Trying to protect kids and pets from speeding vehicles is certainly an admirable goal. By and large, I no longer tool along on side streets.

But I speak for myself: A lot of drivers are "tooling along a side street" these days, at least in my neighborhood. The streets near my house are just a little more than two lanes wide. If one—or two—of those lanes is occupied by parked cars, driving becomes a test of agility.

Speed Bumps Offer an Opportunity to "Pay Attention"

Drivers who are watching out for speed bumps have plenty of time to notice a car turning a corner or backing out of a driveway, time to negotiate the little ballet required to get both vehicles around the parked cars and past each other, usually with a smile and a wave. If someone's tooling, the situation can turn dangerous quite easily.

Just the other day, I was making my way to Claremont Avenue, when an SUV made the more-than-90-degree turn into Mystic, clearly unconcerned about what might be in its path—speed bumps or my aging but beautiful Toyota. If I hadn't taken cover behind a parked car, there would have been a mighty crash. More than a dozen times in recent months, I've swerved or hit the brakes to avoid being smacked by other tool-ers on nearby streets. So far, in every encounter, one of us was watching out while the other tooled. May it always be so.

Anyway, I'm warming to the idea that speed bumps might be good neighbors rather than macadam trolls waiting to attack the unsuspecting driver. And I'm very interested in a new strategy for slowing traffic on residential streets. Speed humps. This is not a typo. To learn more, see page 3 at right.

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The Rockridge News

The Rockridge News, founded in 1986 by Don Kinkead, is published monthly in Oakland and is sponsored by the Rockridge Community Planning Council, a non-profit public benefit organization founded to: preserve and enhance the unique character of the Rockridge neighborhood; promote the health, safety and quality of life of its residents; furnish a forum for community involvement, and provide leadership and representation of neighborhood interests.

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Jo Ellis.....Calendar
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At the April RCPC Meeting

Brunner Listens as Neighbors Cite Rockridge Strengths and Weaknesses

by Jacqueline Tasch

Traffic safety and schools/youth programs are the top priorities in Rockridge as Oakland plunges deeper into a budget crisis that will bring more than $20 million in cuts just in the next year.

At least that was the view of the 50 or so area residents who met with Councilmember Jane Brunner at the Rockridge Community Planning Council's April 24 General Meeting.

After reviewing the neighborhood's strengths and weaknesses in more than a dozen areas, participants voted for the two areas they felt were most in need of attention. If traffic safety (11 votes) is combined with roads (4 votes) —and in the group's discussion, the two were often wedded—it came out first. Schools and programs for youth were second with 11 votes, and crime and police issues came in third with 8 votes.

Brunner and her aide, Justin Horner, took extensive notes and promised to use them for guidance as a month of city budget talks begins Other audiences, large and small, will also be asked for their opinions.

Speeding was a major concern, with participants disagreeing about whether speed bumps or enforcement is the better antidote. Parking came up in several contexts, from traffic hazards to potential income from required parking permits, to the plight of those who work but don't live in Rockridge and those who come here only to dine out or shop.

There was far less discussion about schools. Chabot School drew praise, but some said too many parents are taking kids out of the neighborhood school after fourth grade. Preteens and teens have few options other than the library as places to enjoy constructive entertainment and safe socializing, participants said.



Jane Brunner

Alphabetically, subjects ranged from bike facilities and buses/BART to walkability, which was unanimously viewed as perhaps the most positive thing about Rockridge. Other positive elements might be measured by the lack of comment they drew: neighborhood character, the library, parks, and fire safety.

Many topics had pluses balanced by minuses. For example, while Rockridge has a very low rate of violent crime, it has the highest crime rate in the city when nonviolent offenses—from auto theft and house burglaries to vandalism of trees and plants—are included.

Some concerns were very particular, noting intersections and crosswalks with traffic problems, for example, or storefronts that need more trash cans and streets that lack trees. One participant expressed a preference for green rather than purple trees.

Other issues were more general. Participants looked ahead to the possibility that College Avenue's attractiveness to merchants might draw more antique and gift-oriented destination shops at the expense of services for area residents. One noted that it's easy to buy shoes on College but not so easy to find a place that repairs them.

The May Meeting: Seeing the Past in the Present

The imposing stone gates on Broadway that mark the entry to the original Rockridge are the only identifiable structure in a 1911 photo. There are few houses, and trees rather than roofs mark the ridgeline behind the gates. Astonishingly, there is not only no traffic signal, there's no traffic except for a few passersby strolling along in their Sunday finest. This old photo is one of the "Then" pictures in an interesting new book in progress by Rockridge photographer, Bill Caldwell: *Oakland at 150.* It compares photos—old and new—of Oakland neighborhoods, landmarks, and organizations.

Caldwell will bring some of his photographs to the May 15 General Meeting of the Rockridge Community Planning Council, giving local residents a sneak of preview of the 104-page book

May Meeting, Page 4

Speed Humps (Not Bumps) – What They Are and How to Get One

by Michael Whitfield

Speed bumps or humps. There's a lot more than one letter's difference. Speed humps are newer, more effective, and at the same time less car-damaging than the old speed bumps that are a regular feature of Rockridge streets.

Speed bumps have been around since the 1950s, with a high profile from curb to curb, creating the sharp jolt, quick-rise, quick-drop that so many folks complain about. They are well-known for the wear and tear they inflict on automobiles and the potential difficulty they pose for emergency vehicles. Speed humps, on the other hand, are only a few inches high, with a longer slope and smoother transition to regular pavement. They minimize the negative issues associated with speed bumps, and versions are gaining acceptance in many communities around the United States and abroad.

Responding to the views of Rockridge residents at a January General Meeting, the RCPC's Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Committee set out to learn what's new in the world of speed bumps/humps and their contribution to streets that are safe for children, pets, and other living things.

This topic always creates a spirited debate, partly caused by the confusion between speed bumps and speed humps. Both are used in an overall strategy for local traffic speed reduction, referred to as "Traffic Calming for Livable Neighborhoods." Diverters, street chokers, and roundabouts are other elements used to slow local traffic

Speed Humps, page 12

Group Advances Its Vision and Goals For UnderBART Area Improvement

by Teresa Drenick

"To transform the Rockridge Transit Hub into a dynamic public space that: provides a safe and attractive venue for riders, residents, and visitors; supports and promotes local business and community activities; and unites the Rockridge neighborhood." That's the vision statement put together by the UnderBART committee, a group of local residents and business owners who have been working for several months to make plans for improving the space under the BART station on College Avenue.

Passersby have long noted that while College Avenue is a vibrant, bustling street north and south of the BART station, the dark and unfriendly space beneath it tends to cut the neighborhood in half. Last December, a general meeting of the Rockridge Community Planning Council provided a forum for discussion of this situation, and the UnderBART committee was formed.

Besides the vision statement, the group has established a list of goals over the past two months. These are:

- Promote transit options
- Orient people to the neighborhood
- Use art and design to create a unique, sophisticated, and inviting urban center
- Improve safety and a sense of security
- Unite the two sides of College Avenue
- Improve the BART space's relationship to nature
- Create an active, family-friendly plaza at the heart of Rockridge

The committee is eager to hear from Rockridge residents and others who use the BART station and College Avenue. Anyone is welcome to attend committee meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. The May 8 meeting will be held at the Rockridge Branch Library. Questions may be directed to Teresa Drenick at TDrenick@aol.com.

May Meeting

from page 3

he expects to have in area bookstores in June.

The making of the book makes a good story in itself. Caldwell has taken care to position his camera in exactly the same way that the original photographer used.

A professional photographer who studied film at San Francisco State, Caldwell has spent as many as 60 hours a week on the project. To get a sampling of the project, visit www.oaklandat150.com, then come to the May 15 meeting.


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Peralta Festival Celebrates School, Community Spirit and Spring

The Oakland Fire Department is bringing a truck, and the Oakland Zoo will have some invertebrates—that's bugs—to look at. There'll be free bike helmets for 200 kids, courtesy of the City of Oakland Bike Program.

And all that's in addition to the inflatable jumper and the carnival games, the crafts activities and puppet show, the live band and magician, the cotton candy and popcorn, the barbecue and sno-cones. Best of all, you can get in for the price of a smile—although there will be modest charges for food and some games.

This year's Peralta Spring Community Festival, held on the school grounds on Alcatraz between Telegraph and Dana from noon to 4 p.m. on May 17, will be an extravaganza of food and fun, thanks to a collaboration between the Peralta Parent Teacher Group (PPTG) and the Lower Rockridge Parents Group (LRPG) to celebrate Peralta Elementary School and its neighborhood.

Past Peralta Community Festivals have had a program of student performances—and that will be featured this year, too. But community organizations and businesses are contributing to make this the biggest and best to date. The Rockridge Community Planning Council has contributed $150 to support the event, and Ron Kriss of Lawton Associates Realty is sponsoring all the entertainment.

Peralta Elementary School is one of the most successful schools in the district, with a committed staff and a dynamic parent group in the PPTG. While enrollment declines in Oakland, Peralta has a fall waiting list of students who'd like to transfer there. Festival attendees will enjoy the colorful murals and courtyard gardens in the school yard or visit the new playground garden.

The LRPG is a network of families looking to build a stronger sense of community focused around the neighborhood school. It has formed neighborhood play groups, sponsors community meetings, and hosts a monthly Sunday brunch. For more information, call Susan Killebrew at 655-2737 or e-mail lowerrockridgeparents@yahoo.com.

Can you scoop popcorn? Paint daisies on little faces? Make change? Set up or clean up booths and tables? If you'd like to spend an hour or so in the middle of a vibrant community gathering, the Peralta Spring Community Festival could use your help. Call Margit Birge (428-0366) or Susan Killebrew (655-2737) to volunteer.

Tour Open Studios 2003

The Rockridge Muse, page 9



Letter — Carol Aust

John Wagers, the "Tree Man"

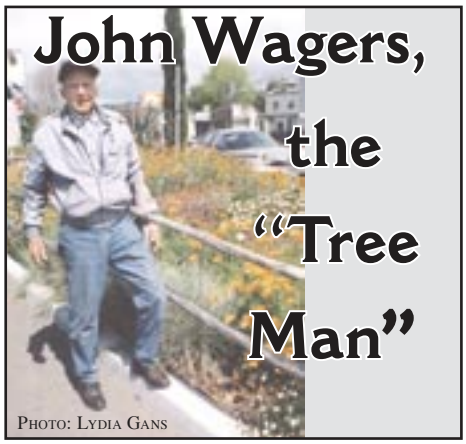


Photo: Lydia Gans

by Lydia Gans

As you drive up Telegraph Avenue in Oakland, look to your left when you get to 58th Street. You'll see a young cypress tree that promises to grow into an imposing sentry on the tiny triangle of greenery where Racine Street meets Telegraph. Come closer and feast your eyes on a variety of native grasses and flowers and golden California poppies. It can't be called a park—you can walk all around it in a minute—but it's a refreshing bit of nature in a world of concrete.

Frequently you'll see a man there tending the plants, a tall, vigorous man with curly gray hair and sparkling eyes. He is John Wagers, 84-year-old retired chemist, the man who energized the neighbors and the city bureaucracy to create that bit of greenspace.

Ten years ago, when city traffic engineers closed the entry into Racine Street off Telegraph, all they could think about putting there was a "huge expanse of paving." Their concept of traffic control was "stop signs and speed bumps," John recalls. He and some neighbors wanted something with esthetic value, something green and beautiful. They had plans drawn up, but the city said it would cost "too much money" and

Tree Man, page 10



Saraya Motley

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5265 Lawton	4/1	$849,000	$880,000	04/09/03
356 62nd St	1/1	$410,000	$475,000	04/11/03
6122 Ocean View	4/3	$795,000	$795,000	04/15/03
6408 Regent	2/1	$689,000	$750,000	04/24/03

Average overbid was almost 8.5% over the asking price. In April, none of the properties listed in Rockridge sold bellow the asking price.

If you are thinking of buying or selling, call me for a free consultation.

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Kitchen Tour Seeks Volunteers; Planning Underway

by Natalie Mehta

A host of spectacular kitchens will be on display in the Rockridge Kitchen Tour, set for September 28. Now, the planning committee is looking for volunteer docents and committee members to contribute their ideas and talents. If you would like to participate in this fundraising event—and receive complimentary tour tickets for your efforts—please contact one of the numbers listed below. Here are the volunteer assignments:

Docents: Guide visitors through the homes and provide background information to tour guests. Docents are treated to a pre-tour visit of three kitchens and will have time to visit the other six kitchens when their shift is over on the day of the tour. If you are interested in being a docent, please contact Nancy Sale at 655-4625.

Committee Volunteers: Assist with pre-tour and event-day activities including publicity, the raffle, food, flowers, set-up, and registration. For more information, please contact Deborah Larson at 595-3352.



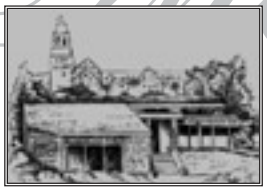
The 2003 Kitchen Tour Committee.
Top row (l to r): Brian Deans, Marilyn Mansfield, Susan Montauk, Nancy Sale, Laura Gentile.
Bottom Row: Natalie Mehta, Maureen Alano, Deborah Larson, Jane Meyer.
Not pictured: Don Kinkead and Jo Ellis.
PHOTO: PAUL WEINSTEIN

Brochure Advertising: Provide merchants, real estate brokers, builders, architects, designers, decorators, and other residential home decoration professionals with an opportunity to reach an interested and enthusiastic audience. For more information about securing advertising space in the tour brochure, please contact Jo Ellis at 653-3210.

Photography: A volunteer professional photographer takes publicity pictures for the tour press releases. The time involved is approximately six hours. Contact Susan Montauk at 547-3855 for more information.

With both the Kitchen Tour and Market Hall Fair occurring on September 28, there will be a wide variety of activities in the neighborhood. Whether you want an insider's look at some of the most beautiful and innovative kitchens in the area or want to taste a variety of gourmet treats from Market Hall—why not both?—Rockridge will be the place to be on September 28.

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Rockridge Cornucopia

Barry A. Kaufman

By The Book

We are in the midst of painting the downstairs of our house. Need I say more? I had to pack up over 120 cookbooks, six binders of recipe clips, and 10 years of cooking magazines after sorting through everything. Although it was an all-day job, I felt great comfort in looking through 37 years of my cookbook collection.

Our first cookbook, given to us by a wonderful cousin, was *A Treasury of Great Recipes*, by Mary and Vincent Price. That's right: Vincent Price, the great Hollywood film star. Published in 1965, the cookbook is a collection of recipes from the world's most famous restaurants. For every restaurant, there's a full-color photograph of the dining room and a reproduction of the menu, including prices. Oldtimers might appreciate an original 1965 menu from the Blue Fox. Check these prices: Caesar salad, $2.00, double French lamb chops, $7.00, and espresso, $.60. I still make the French Chocolate Ice Cream from La Pavillon (see recipe).

In addition to providing me with new cooking ideas and techniques, cookbooks are just plain good reading. I may never prepare any of the recipes in two recently purchased cookbooks—*Hot Sour Salty Sweet: A Culinary Journey Through Southeast Asia*, by Jeffrey Alford and Naomi Duguid, and *Thai Food*, by David Thompson (photos by Earl Carter)—but I find them fascinating. Winners of James Beard Best Cookbook awards, the books are a glorious combination of travel, history, cultural anthropology, and culinary tastes. Another in that category is Claudia Roden's *The Book of Jewish Food: An Odyssey From Samarkand to New York*, also a Beard award winner. In addition to providing over 800 recipes, *The Book of Jewish Food* interweaves stories, history, and remembrances of 2,000 years of the Jewish diaspora.

Did you know that cookbooks are the largest-selling category of nonfiction books? Bookstores organize cookbooks into general, regional, ethnic, specialized techniques, ingredients, and restaurant. Every cookbook library should contain at least one comprehensive general cookbook. These include *Joy of Cooking*, *The New Basics Cookbook*, *The Fannie Farmer Cookbook*, and the out-of-print Amy Vanderbilt's cookbook.

I purchased a copy of Amy Vanderbilt's cookbook in 1967. Years later, I noticed that the beautiful pen and ink line drawings were done by a then-young and unknown artist named Andrew Warhol. Warhol's perfect napkin-folding illustrations are a delight. My personal choices for general cookbooks are *The New Basics Cookbook* and *The Best Recipe* by the publishers of Cook's Illustrated. I still continue to make reference to Craig Claiborne's classic *New York Times Cookbook*, which has a recipe for mushroom pie that we have been making on Thanksgiving for over 30 years.

Cookbook collectors should always check the overstocks and used books found in our local bookstores, Pendragon and Diesel. "Like new" used books can also be found at Jessica's Biscuit on the Internet. While recently browsing at Pendragon, I picked up a used near-perfect copy of Madhur Jeffrey's *World Vegetarian* by the guru of Indian cooking, far below the jacket price. Ten years ago, while in New York roaming the Strand Bookstore, I found an overstock copy of Christopher Schlesinger's *The Thrill of the Grill* for $10. Now considered a classic in grill cooking, the book has recipes for jerk chicken and my favorite barbecue sauce, both mainstays in my grilling repertoire.

Every cookbook library should contain at least one volume for each ethnic cuisine and several personal favorites. I tend to stay away from celebrity chef restaurant cookbooks. The pictures are beautiful, but the recipes are often not tested for home kitchens. On the other hand, I adore Joyce Goldstein's *Mediterranean Kitchen*, which features many of her signature dishes from her now closed Square One restaurant.

This month's recipe comes from *A Treasury of Great Recipes* by Mary and Vincent Price. It was my very first attempt at making a French gourmet dessert and is still a mainstay for our family.

French Chocolate Ice Cream

(Makes 1 quart)

Ingredients

1/4 cup sugar
1/3 cup water
6 ounces semisweet chocolate chips
3 egg yolks
1½ cups of whipping cream

Directions

In a small saucepan combine sugar and water. Bring to boil and boil rapidly for 3 minutes.

Put chocolate chips in a blender. Add the hot sugar syrup, cover, and blend on high speed until the chocolate is smooth.

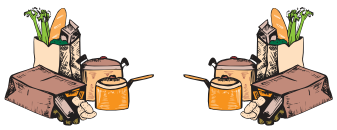
Add the egg yolks. Stir to combine and blend for 30 seconds.

Whip cream in large mixing bowl until firm peaks are formed. Fold chocolate mixture into the whipped cream.

Spoon into a flat cake pan. Cover with waxed paper and freeze for 2 to 3 hours. Remove from freezer about an hour before serving to soften, so it's ready to scoop.

(Optional: I often add ¼ cup of orange-flavored liqueur to the mixture before placing in the freezer.)

Barry Kaufman is a graduate of the California Culinary Academy. His e-mail is kaufman42@earthlink.net. Barry is available for private cooking classes and fundraising events.



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East Bay Open Studios



by Ortrun Niesar

Each spring we are invited to celebrate the visual arts and the artists among us who create such marvelous paintings, sculptures, photography, jewelry, and other art objects. The event, East Bay Open Studios (EBOS), has been produced by Pro Arts every year since 1979.

Pro Arts was founded in 1974 as the Alameda Neighborhood Arts Program to serve the needs of the Bay Area's diverse artistic and cultural communities. Today, there are well over 1,000 members, about 550 of whom will open their studios to the public during the first two weekends of June. In the absence of other East Bay venues to show and sell art, Open Studios represents an important means for artists to make a living. Even more than that, it provides all of us a unique opportunity to share in the rich creative life of the East Bay.

In Rockridge and environs, at least 25 artists plan to hold their studios open. See the map and list of artists on this page. These artists will be showing painting, photography, sculpture, art furniture, stained glass, prints, dolls and dolls' clothing, mixed media and jewelry. Two other Rockridge artists, Linda Lemon and Karen LeGault, will exhibit at Jerry Brown's "We The People" Auditorium in Jack London Square.

How to See Open Studios

What is the best way to experience Open Studios? Two weekends are hardly enough to scratch the surface of all there is to see. Through June 8, samples of each artist's work will be on display at the Pro Arts Gallery in downtown Oakland (963-9425). Consider planning your tour by first visiting the gallery to select the artists you won't want to miss. The gallery will be open Wednesdays through Sundays, 11a.m. to 5 p.m. Complimentary maps will be available there, or you can find maps in the East Bay Express and the Rockridge Library.

With luck and some planning, you may be able to group your chosen studio visits in such a way as to avoid excessive driving. Also, be adventurous, try adding a new neighborhood or a new group of artists to your list of destinations each year. A wonderful way to enjoy your touring is to hook up with a friend or two. Wear comfortable shoes and be prepared to do some walking and stair climbing. Don't worry too much about stopping for lunch. Almost all studios will offer refreshments, as many are not located near restaurants.

If you focus on Rockridge, you can do a walking or bicycle tour for added pleasure. We are sure the weather will be fine.

Buying Art

Do plan to purchase some original art. There is nothing like owning a work that tugged at your heart strings the first time you saw it, one that made you come back again and again. Many works on display during Open Studios can be purchased at very reasonable prices. Some artists will accept credit cards, but most will ask you to pay by check or cash (artists are often willing to work out time payment plans).

Handmade post cards, jewelry, dyed fabrics, and small sculptures are available for a few dollars almost everywhere. Think Christmas in June and bring a cloth bag to hold your treasures. Artists tend to forget about wrapping materials. Finally, do put your name on your favorite artist's mailing list if you want to be included in future events.

Here's wishing you a wonderful day of adventure and discovery at EBOS 2003.

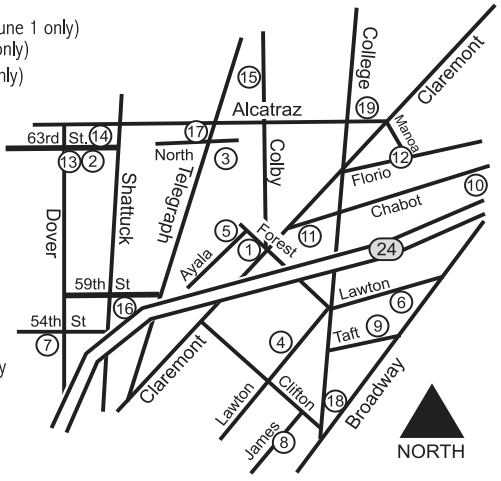
PRO ARTS East Bay Open Studios 2003

Rockridge and Adjacent Area Artists

May 31, June 1, June 7, June 8

Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am - 6 pm

1. **J.P. Andrews**, 5557 Claremont@Forest, Photography
2. **Carol Aust**, 655 63rd St.@Shattuck, Painting
   Ed Aust, Photography
3. **Christina Bertea**, 477 North St. @Telegraph, Sculpture (May 31-June 1 only)
4. **Krislyn Brooks**, 5362 Lawton@Hudson, Jewelry
   Amy Rosenfeld, Art Furniture
   Karen Carbone, Stained Glass & Sculpture (Saturdays only)
   Loren Pederson, Fused Glass (Saturdays only)
5. **Audrey Brown,** 5804 Ayala, Painting (May 31-June 1 only)
   Tamra Converse, Printmaking (May 31-June 1 only)
6. **Ann Daniels**, 5599 Lawton, Jewelry (June 7-8 only)
7. **Githinji,** 5327 Dover@54th, Painting
   Jenna C. Hyman, Mixed Media
8. **Anne Gomes**, 5244 James Ave., Photography (May 31-June 1 only)
9. **Peter Heelan**, 5562 Taft Ave., Painting (May 31-June 1 only)
10. **Howard Hopkirk**, 6608 Chabot Rd., Painting (May 31-June 1 only)
11. **Liz Maxwell**, 5808 Chabot Rd., Painting
12. **Ortrun Niesar**, 6200 Manoa, Painting (Sundays only)
13. **Dominique Pelletey**, 689-63rd St., Photography
14. **Karla Stevens-Wilson**, 650 63rd, Art Furniture (Not showing May 31)
15. **Darril Tighe**, 6441 Colby, Painting
16. **Melissa West**, 569-B 59th St., Painting
17. **Siobhan Van Winkel**, 6371 Telegraph, Dolls/clothes
18. **Marsha Vaughn**, 5269 Broadway@College, Painting
19. **Joanne Yeaton**, 2733 Alcatraz@Claremont, Painting





Safeway Site

from page 1

subletting the lot to car dealers on Broadway who needed extra parking space.

As time went by, there was growing concern about how the site was being used and, more important, how it might become a vital part of its neighborhood again. Working with area residents, the Rockridge Community Planning Council argued to the City of Oakland that Children's Hospital was making inappropriate uses of the property. The parcel of land is zoned C-28 Commercial Shopping; warehousing and/or storage are not a permitted use.

Not long ago, Children's Hospital issued a proposal to convert the building into a just-in-time warehouse for its use. While the RCPC board and the Rockridge community stand by the mission of Children's Hospital, spokesmen contended that plans to make 5354 Claremont Avenue a warehouse were just plain wrong, not permitted and not supported by the City of Oakland's general plan.

In January, RCPC learned that Children's Hospital had negotiated an early termination to its long-term lease with the property owner, James Falaschi. Since then, Falaschi has requested a building permit and is currently improving the structure's interior to hold medical offices. Because medical offices are a permitted use in the C-28 zone and the work was mostly on the interior, the project was not subject to public review or comment.

However, RCPC is pleased with the outcome and appreciates Mr. Falaschi's efforts to consider the surrounding community. Those who had hopes for other development possibilities of that site—and there were many constructive suggestions—will have to wait for another day.

Tree Man

from page 5

the plans were ignored.

Some years later, the traffic engineer "found some money," John says, but the city drew its own plans. "If we hadn't been there to protest, it would have been mostly concrete. …Our idea was to develop a model, open space with native plants like what was here originally."

The neighbors finally got approval for their plan, and 20 people showed up to help on planting day in October 2001. They selected drought-tolerant native plants and worked in huge quantities of mulch: The garden flourished.

Then, two months ago, a PG&E worker ran a bulldozer right through the middle of the garden, mistakenly thinking there was a gas line under it. The plants that had been growing for two years were destroyed. The garden had to be started all over again—and it was thanks to a half-dozen volunteers with John in the lead.

An amateur horticulturist, John has been critical of the city's choice of street trees, many of which have been destroyed because they were the wrong trees for the area or were planted in paving cutouts that are too small. John has developed a list of trees appropriate to local conditions and guidelines for how they should be planted.

It seems to John that some city officials "love concrete, they love paving. The concrete contractors must have an influence … and they're paranoid about weeds." But, John says, with enough neighbors organized, the city will listen. And in that there is a lesson for all of us.



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FROM EDITOR TO ADVENTURER

Former *Rockridge News* Editor Reports from Abroad

by Claire Isaacs

"We're either going to be cheered or get shot!" I shouted to husband Bill, as we joined 21 other Americans to lead a parade down a darkened street in a foreign country. It was a hot night, November 20, 2002, and we were about to march two-and-a-half kilometers past thousands of strangely silent people in Lamphun, Northern Thailand.

At the moment, I didn't know whether the streets lacked lamps, or the lights were deliberately turned off. The gloom made me uneasy, even though we were escorted by the city's mayor and his staff, dressed in brilliant traditional garb. We, in turn, wore the very visible white shirt jackets the mayor had given us earlier that day, which seemed to make us perfect targets for any angry anti-Americans among the throng.

How did we get into this mess? It's a long story but I'll stick with the highlights.

For a while now, my husband Bill Wahrhaftig has been saying that if we were to enjoy all those exotic trips abroad we had imagined since our retirement, we'd need to start soon. Although I agreed, my beloved mother needed care; her death last August 7, after a long cruel battle with Alzheimer's, left us free to travel. We began with a long-planned journey to Japan in October and couldn't resist an invitation to join a people-to-people Sister City Tour to Lamphun, Thailand, leaving only three weeks after our return from Osaka.

To take advantage of all these opportunities, I reluctantly cut myself loose from a self-imposed schedule of news deadlines that began with reporting assignments for neighborhood newspapers in San Francisco. When I became editor of *The Rockridge News*—wonderful as that job was—my life became locked into a relentless production schedule. Sorry to leave the wonderful friends and associates I'd made through the newsletter and as a member of the sponsoring Rockridge Community Planning Council, I nevertheless submitted my resignation. It was time to move on.

Soon, Bill and I were officially dubbed "honorary Orindans" and left for Thailand under the guidance of then-Orinda Mayor Gregg Wheatland. Gregg's friendship with the owner of the Thai Orchid restaurant across from the City Council chambers—and his fondness for Lamphun food—had grown into a Sister City relationship with educational and cultural exchanges.



Claire and husband Bill at the start of a festival parade in Thailand.

When we arrived at Changmai airport, a throng of traditionally costumed women and men from Laphun greeted us with a welcome banner, music, cheers and clapping. They garlanded our necks and wrists with fragrant jasmine and roses. After a 28-hour journey, it was a delightful surprise.

During the next few days, officials and citizens of Lamphun welcomed us at City Hall, the Provincial Government Headquarters, the local waste treatment plant (impressively up to date), recycling plant (compost, paper), and herb production plant (fragrant).

In return, we presented 20 boxes of English language books to the local school librarian, helped teenage Buddhist nuns practice their English, and heartily applauded the public school children's songs and dances. We offered our respects at the spectacular local Buddhist temple, Doi Sathep, with its ferocious demon figures, sacred white elephant, and stupifyingly beautiful golden *stupa*. We paid homage to living elephants, too, at the Elephant Conservation Camp, where entrance fees supply cash to save the wonderful beasts from extinction when their services are no longer needed for logging in Thai forests.

And, of course, there was the parade. The occasion was the major annual Festival of Loi Krathong, which marks the end of the rainy season and celebrates the bounties of the river. As we walked to the starting point, many gracious local citizens picnicking by the riverside offered to share their family's food with us. Why then, were the people lining the parade route so cool? Why was the street so dark?

Finally, I understood. People wanted to see, not the politicians and their guests at the head of the parade, but the show that would follow us. Darkness was essential to enjoy the forty or so full-size floats, brilliantly lit, adorned with water lilies and lotuses, demons, Buddhas, and Thai temples. Riding on them were beauteous classical and folk dancers, musicians, and acrobats in full costume. A group of kick boxers stopped to demonstrate their ferocious sport inside a portable ring.

After completing our ceremonial task, we retired to a reviewing stand to watch the rest of the parade. Then we all descended to the river to launch little bamboo floats, or krathongs, decorated with flowers, candles, incense and Thai and American flags. These were intended to form a stream of floating lights pouring south to Bangkok and out to sea, carrying our hopes and dreams. My float was unbalanced and too heavily weighted with its flags. It sank rapidly.

Next evening, on a quiet tributary stream by the Golden Pai resort village near Mae Hong Son, I tried again. This time, I got it right. My wishes for peace and long life joined those of millions of Thais.

At home now, reminiscing about those lovely gracious people, I realize that I have become a sister both to Orindans, our neighbors across the hills, and to the people of Lamphun, across the sea. Near and far, it is all the same.

Speed Humps

from page 3

down and divert cars seeking shortcuts back to the arterial streets that are designed to accommodate higher speeds. We only need to go a few blocks up College Avenue into Berkeley to see how this strategy has been implemented and how effective it is.

Since speed bumps are responsible for a lot of the bad PR, we decided to take a closer look at speed humps. An interesting article in *TA Magazine*'s Summer 2002 issue calls speed humps "the most effective device the city has to slow traffic and reduce crashes on neighborhood streets. Indeed, their very effectiveness is why shortcutting motorists do not like them."

The magazine's publisher, Transportation Alternatives, is a New York-based coalition that advocates traffic calming. While some motorists complain that speed humps increase traffic noise, the New York City Department of Transportation's Speed Hump Noise Impact Survey "found that the loudest noises decreased substantially after humps were installed, while background, or ambient traffic noise, remained unchanged," the article says.

Let's take a closer look. Speed humps are about 3 inches high and, unlike speed bumps, they are typically 18 feet long in the direction of travel. They are generally spaced every 500 feet, although they may be spaced as far apart as 750 feet. A recent study conducted by the British Government recommends the installation of speed humps in pairs 100 feet apart, finding that this pairing strategy produces the most effective results in noise reduction.

For the most part, speed humps are only workable in residential settings with posted speed limits of 25 or 30 mph. The humps are never installed in areas with restricted visibility, such as sharp curves, hillcrests, steep grades, intersections, or driveways. Designed to accommodate larger vehicles such as school buses and fire trucks, they do not impede emergency vehicles.

The good news is that speed humps really work to slow traffic down on residential streets. The bad news is that the ongoing budget crisis in the City of Oakland will make it harder to get them installed. Given the fact that they are a self-enforcing long-term solution to speeding traffic, many people think the effort is worth it.

For more information on Rockridge traffic issues, or to obtain a sample City of Oakland "Petition For Speed Bumps"—please contact michaeljwhitfield@hotmail.com

All About Adding a Hump to Your Street

If you think your street might benefit from speed humps, here's what to do: Contact the City of Oakland Public Works Agency–Traffic & Engineering Department, 250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4344, Oakland, 94612, phone 238-3466. A traffic engineer will return your call and interview you about your block.

To qualify for the installation of speed humps, your street must:

- be classified as a local/residential street;
- have a curb-to-curb width of 40 feet or less;
- have no more than two lanes (one in each direction);
- be relatively flat with a grade not exceeding 7%;
- have a speed limit of 25 mph, while 85% of traffic exceeds 32 mph;
- not be part of an AC Transit route;
- not be a cul-de-sac or dead-end street.

If your street qualifies, you will be sent a "Petition for Speed Humps." Residents or landlords representing 67% of the addresses on the block under consideration, including the four corner properties, must sign the petition. It should also provide the number and age range of the children living on your block and list any preschools or nursery schools.

Petitions are reviewed by the Traffic & Engineering Department for signature confirmation and final approval. Your block will then be scheduled for installation.

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Photo: Don Kinkead

twenty two

(Way More Than) 22 Shoes

The store's name has nothing to do with the number of shoes available, as you'll quickly see when you enter twenty two, on College near Chabot. Located in the former Laser Copy space, this new store features plenty of shoes for men, women, and children, as well as handbags and other accessories. So why call it twenty two? Patience, please.

Owner Chris Silverman and his wife, Alexandra, have been Oaklanders since 1995, and while living on Shafter some time ago, they got familiar with the Rockridge neighborhood. Both came from the world of fashion and design, he from Old Navy and Levi's, and she from Gap and Levi's. Earlier in his career, Chris owned a surf and skateboard store called X-Large with one of the Beastie Boys, and he's been in retail and fashion since he was 16 years old.

For some time, the couple had wanted to open their own retail store close to home. As parents of a three-year-old with another baby on the way, they thought the time was right for a new direction, and they decided that a shoe store would fill a need in Rockridge. The store's hours allow Chris to spend mornings with his daughter.

twenty two carries a wide range of shoes, from high-end designer party shoes to fun sneakers and everything in between. When I visited in mid-April, spring was in full swing. Shoes ranged from strappy sandals and low heels from Marc Jacobs and Sigerson Morrison to embroidered slides and thongs from Le Plagiste in the south of France, Italian earth-tone sandals from L'Autre Chose, and cute rubber open-toe clogs from Clone. The Robert Clergerie (Paris) geometric sandals in gold and black are very elegant, and the slides from Jet in Italy, in bright striped fabric and clear colors, seem to call out from warm beaches on the Mediterranean coast.



Chris Silverman at the sales counter of twenty two shoes

Photo: Lydia Gans

For casual and athletic wear, there are even more choices. The Onitsuka Tiger shoes in suede and leather come in unusual combinations like black and orange and olive and white, and Pumas in every color of the rainbow are here as well. There's a Reebok fold-up trainer for travel and a soft sneaker with lacing, inspired by bicycling shoes. The store carries a number of limited edition shoes as well, including a refined flat sandal with Eames fabric and a Miharayasuhiro sneaker with a unique heel (impossible to describe, you have to see it).

For walkers there are many choices: Clark's clogs with stylish single-strap open backs as well as shoes and short boots from Germany's trippen, an eco-friendly manufacturer. The evisu shoes for men are really stunning: casual tie shoes in dark and earth tones lined with brilliant kimono fabrics.

In addition to shoes, twenty two carries a variety of handbags and socks. A shoulder bag with a stylish buckle is available from Sigerson Morrison in dusty blue or black. The sporty bags from Un Aprés-Midi de Chien … Paris come in nylon or Teflon-coated fabric in blue, tan, black, and multicolor, and all are lined in hot pink fabric, which makes it easy to find things in the bottom of your purse.

So why *did* they call it twenty two? Chris says, "twenty two is a lucky family number, a number we love, and it allows us to expand into other areas in the future: shoe design, accessories, even clothing." The store is clean and modern, with an interesting frosted plastic and white wood wall in the rear. Local builder Rob Roster helped the Silvermans fulfill their vision for the space. twenty two currently features artwork by Maggie Hill Ward, and the store will feature a new artist every four to six weeks.

As Chris notes, "We have gotten wonderful support from the neighbors, who have been very friendly since we opened in September last year. We really love this neighborhood and look forward to welcoming more of our neighbors soon."

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Check Your...

Compiled by Jo Ellis

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

E-mail Rockridge News Community Calendar items to: joellis1@hotmail.com, phone 653-3210, or mail to: Rockridge News Community Calendar, 5245 College Avenue, PMB 311, Oakland, CA 94618. Deadline is the next to the last Tuesday of the month.

District 1 Councilmember Jane Brunner's Monthly Community Advisory Meeting

First Saturday each month, 10am to noon. Peralta Elementary School: 460 63rd St. (parking on Alcatraz Ave., just east of Telegraph)
Note: No June meeting. Annual Summer Picnic, Sunday, June 22nd from 1-5pm at Lake Temescal North Picnic Area. For more information: 238-7001 or www.oaklandnet.com.

Oakland City Council Meeting

Every Tuesday, 7pm, City Hall

Oakland Planning Commission

1st and 3rd Wednesday each month, 6:30pm, City Hall. Agendas, details at www.oaklandnet.com.

Rockridge Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council

Steering committee meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, 7 to 8:30pm, Claremont Middle School, 5750 College. For more information see the link to the NCPC webpage at www.rockridge.org.
Note: Special NCPC Town Hall Meeting on Community Policing, May 27, 7-9pm, Rockridge Library (See article page 1).

Rockridge Branch Library

5366 College Ave. **NOTE: Library CLOSED Monday, May 26, Memorial Day.**

For Children:

- Toddler Story Time, Saturday at 10:30am: 5/3, 5/10, 5/31, 6/7.
- Pre-School Story Hours, Tuesday at 10:30 and 11am: 5/6, 5/20, 6/3.
- Pajama Story Time, Wednesday at 7pm: 5/14, 5/28, 6/11.

Special Events:

- Kathak Dance Performance of the Chhandam School; traditional storytelling dance form from India. Wednesday, May 21 at 7pm. All ages welcome; best for ages 7 to 12.
- Origami Get-together, Thursday, May 29, 3 to 5pm. All ages welcome; folders with small hands will need adult help. No sign-up needed.

For Young Adults:

Teen Advisory Council meets the second Thursday of the month, 3:30- 5:30pm: 5/8, 6/12

For Adults:

- Lawyers in the Library: Free legal advice. First Thursday of each month from 6 to 8pm. Sign-up begins 5pm.

Library Hours: Mon. Tues. Sat. 10am to 5:30pm
Wed. Thurs. 12:30 to 8pm. Closed Fri. & Sun.
For more information call 597-5017

Rockridge Toastmasters

Every Tuesday, 7pm: Veterans Building, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. Improve your public speaking skills in a friendly and supportive environment. For more information call Craig at 597-0951 or e-mail www.rockridgetoastmasters.org

Writer's Support/Critique Group

Rockridge Branch Library, 1st Saturday of the month: Call or e-mail to verify meeting time. ALL writers welcome. Bring 6 copies of any 5 pages of your prose for reading/discussion with warmhearted peers. Sponsor: California Writers Club, Berkeley branch. Call 482-0265 or Writefox@aol.com

Peralta Spring Community Festival

May 17, noon to 4pm, at Peralta Elementary School, 460 63rd Street. See story, page 5.

East Bay Open Studios 2003

Produced by Pro Arts. Examples of each artist's work will be on display at the Pro Arts Gallery through June 8. See story, page 9 for map and list of artists and open studio locations.

Diesel Book/Poetry Readings

5433 College Ave. All Events are free and open to the public.

- Tuesday, May 6, 7:30pm. Michael Chabon, Daniel Handler and Ayelet Waldman: Stories of Love and Neurosis.
- Thursday, May 8, 7:30pm. Dennis Lehane: *Shutter Island*. Mystery;
- Sunday, May 18, 2pm. **Small Press Extravaganza** returns for its 3rd year of celebrating Bay Area small press magazines and presses. Participants include 26 magazines and surprise guests.
- Monday, May 19, 7:30pm. UC Extension Reading features student writers from writing classes.
- Wednesday, May 21, 7:30pm. Adam Hochschild: Co-sponsored with North Oakland Neighbors for Peace and Justice: "The New World Order."
- Thursday, May 22, 7:30pm. Richard Greenfield: *Carnage in the Lovetrees*. Poetry.
- Sunday, May 25, 2pm. Leonard Chang: *Underkill*
- Sunday, June 8, 4pm. Kimball Jones: *The Casual Vineyard Table: From Wente Vineyards. Cookbook*, co-authored with Carolyn Wente.
- Diesel Drop-in Book Groups: • Tuesday, May 13, 7:30pm. Reading *Mrs. Dallaway* by Virginia Woolf.
- Tuesday, May 20, 7:30pm. Reading *Madame Bovary* by Flaubert.

For more information: 653-9965 or www.dieselbookstore.com

Free Comedy Showcase & Open Mic

Start your career in comedy at A 'Cuppa Tea, 3200 College Ave, (corner of Alcatraz), Every Tuesday, 7:30 to 9pm. Be there by 7pm to sign up. Also: Every Saturday, 7 to 9pm: free acoustic music performance. For more information call 420-0196.

College Avenue Adult Center

College Ave. Presbyterian Church, 5955 College Ave. Every Wednesday, open 9:30am to 1:30pm. Light exercise, socializing, travel programs and music.

- Special programs 11am to noon.
  5/7 Charles Fitch slides of Europe
- Field Trips: 5/10 Stinson Beach.

Hot lunch available at noon for $1.75. For details and inf. on upcoming field trips and events, call Kathy at 531-6724.

North Oakland Senior Center

5714 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way. Monday – Friday 8:45am to 4:45pm. Variety of classes, workshops and educational/social events:

- Computer Classes
- Craft and sewing classes
- Walking groups and field trips:

Sign up in advance for trip to Yosemite, June 4-6. The Newsletter, "North Oakland Senior Times" provides a schedule of classes and a monthly menu for lunch: (suggested donation: seniors age 60 + $1.75 and $4.00 for those under age 60). Call 597- 5085 for membership and other details.

Elder Care Support Group

Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 3rd floor, room 3369B (take elevator B). Free for family/friends caring for older adults. 3rd Wednesday of each month, 4-5:30pm. For information on all support/education groups offered by Alta Bates/Sutter Health: call Monica at 802-1725 or e-mail Monicalcsw@alum.calberkeley.org

Volunteers Needed

- Alameda County Community Food Bank. Assist in the warehouse or office; staff the Hunger Hotline, the Food Bank's toll-free food referral service. Hotline shifts Mon-Fri, 9am-12pm and 1-4pm. Volunteer Mgr. Mary Schoen: 834-FOOD(3663) or www.accfb.org.
- Oakland Elizabeth House: A Transitional Residence for Women and Children in Rockridge, 6423 Colby St., Oakland. Residential and support services to homeless and low-income women and children. Orientation and training for new volunteers. Help with childcare, homework, mentoring, field trips and house chores. 658-1380, ext.4, or e-mail volunteer@oakehouse.org

Tour Open Studios 2003

The Rockridge Muse, page 9



Growing Out
— Liz Maxwell



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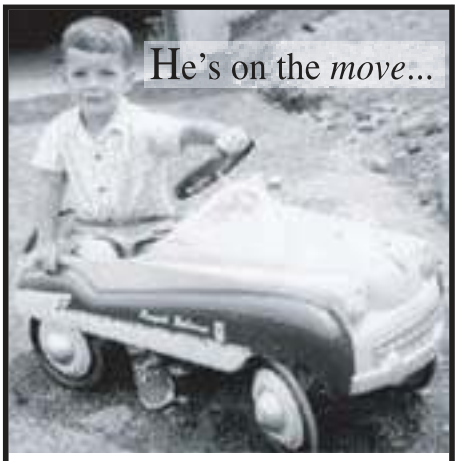
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